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Sent: Friday, October 26, 2007 10:50 AM
To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: DOE: Draft Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan EIS Supplement Analysis
Attachments: HCP-EIS-FS.pdf

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Draft Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement (HCP-EIS) Supplement Analysis

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing a Supplement Analysis (SA) to the 1999 Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement (HCP-EIS). DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require periodic reviews of sitewide Environmental Impact Statements like the HCP-EIS. These periodic reviews are done to determine whether or not there were significant changes in the information, conditions and/or assumptions on which a sitewide EIS is based.

The HCP-EIS evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing a comprehensive land-use plan for the Hanford Site for at least the next 50 years. The Record of Decision (November 1999) adopted the DOE preferred land-use map to implement the DOE-Preferred Alternative using the policies and procedures described in Chapter 6 of the final HCP EIS.

What is the purpose of the HCP-EIS Supplement Analysis?

A Supplement Analysis is a concise narrative that identifies changes in environmental conditions and information since the Final EIS was issued, analyzes their relevance to the environmental impacts analyzed in the EIS, and discusses any additional relevant issues. The primary purpose of the Supplement Analysis for the HCP-EIS is to evaluate (consistent with 10 CFR 1021.314) whether a supplemental EIS, a new EIS, or neither is required. This evaluation will focus on whether further NEPA review is needed due to any changes in: (1) the land-use designations in the EIS; (2) the preferred alternative land-use map, depicting the desired future patterns of land use on the Hanford Site; (3) land-use policies; or (4) implementing procedures described in Chapter 6 of the final HCP-EIS, as well as 5) impacts of the changes in items 1 through 4.

Background on the HCP-EIS

In 1996 DOE issued a Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan. This Draft EIS analyzed a range of future land-use alternatives and impacts of completed, ongoing, and potential cleanup actions. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which was an appendix to the draft EIS, was intended to guide DOE in its management of the site.

Based on public comments and changes in DOE's policies for integrating NEPA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), DOE issued a Revised Draft in 1999. Nine cooperating agencies and consulting Tribal governments participated in preparing the Revised Draft. DOE received and considered more than 1500 comments on the Revised Draft.

DOE's Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS (September 1999) (<http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/eis/eis0222/eis0222.html>) reflected changes to DOE's preferred alternative based on public comments and changed the name to the Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS. The revised preferred alternative included: consolidating waste management operations in the Central Plateau; allowing industrial development in the eastern and southern portions of the site; increasing recreational access to the Columbia River; and expanding the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge to include all of the Wahluke Slope, the McGee Ranch, and the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The document also contained a final land-use map, land-use definitions, policies, and implementing procedures. A Record of Decision was issued in November 1999 (<http://www.hanford.gov/doe/eis/hraeis/rod/hcprod.html>).

What will be evaluated in the HCP-EIS Supplement Analysis?

This Supplement Analysis will consider whether there are significant changes in circumstances at the Hanford Site (for example, changes to land uses such as designation of the Hanford Reach National Monument) or new information relevant to environmental concerns (such as effects of fires at the Hanford Site and transfer of management responsibilities to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and preparation of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan EIS for the Hanford Reach National Monument). These and other changes or new information will be evaluated in terms of how they could affect the implementation of land uses designated by DOE in the HCP-EIS and ROD.

The Supplement Analysis will discuss:

- Background on the 1999 HCP EIS and ROD,
- New environmental information/documentation (developed since 1999) relevant to land use issues at the Hanford Site,
- Activities or conditions at the Hanford Site that could potentially affect or relate to land use, geological resources and cultural resources as analyzed in the HCP-EIS, and
- The land use policies and procedures described in the ROD and their application to date.

The SA will provide a comparison of the impacts previously analyzed in the EIS for the different resource areas to the potential impacts that may result from new activities or changes in conditions at Hanford since the EIS was issued in 1999. The Supplement Analysis will provide findings and conclusions on the need for a supplemental EIS, a new EIS, or neither.

Public Process

In early 2008 DOE plans to issue a Draft Supplement Analysis. DOE would like your feedback before completing the Draft Supplement Analysis. DOE would like to know if you are aware of information/documents within the areas outlined in the attached draft Table of Contents that should be considered in the development of this Supplement Analysis. Please provide your feedback by November 30, 2007 to:

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Although not required by DOE NEPA regulations, DOE plans to conduct an informal 30-day public comment period on the draft Supplement Analysis, including an informational workshop. DOE will consider comments received on the draft when preparing the Final Supplement Analysis and in determining whether further NEPA review is needed.

For additional information or questions, please contact Karen Lutz (509) 376-4766.

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT
HANFORD COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT
SUPPLEMENT ANALYSIS**

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This is a preliminary draft document and subject to change based on comments.